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— Another journal, of which we have received Nos. 1 and 2 under the same cover, is the Bulletin of the Buffalo Naturalists Field Club. The ornithological, botanical and especially Dr. Kellicott's notes on the early stages of certain caterpillars, are particularly good. Some of the articles have a pleasant literary flavor.

— Professor R. Owen, the veteran comparative anatomist, though seventy-nine years old, is still in good health and publishing important papers. Rumors of his ill health are contradicted, we are glad to see, by *Nature*.

— A most interesting paper by Commander J. R. Bartlett, U. S. N., assistant in the Coast and Geodetic Survey, on the Gulf stream, appears in the Bulletin of the American Geographical Society.

— A third issue is S. E. Cassino's *Scientific and Literary Gossip*, edited by J. S. Kingsley. It appears once a month and contains selected and critical articles.

— Professor P. A. Chadbourne, who died on the 16th of Feb., was lately president of Williams College, and at the time of his death president of Massachusetts Agricultural College. He was in earlier years a zealous and successful teacher of science. He gave moral and pecuniary aid to struggling students of science, and though he spent little time in original research, he aided younger men in their studies. He led the Williams College expedition to Labrador and Greenland in 1860, when considerable material new to science was collected and worked up by those attached to the expedition.

— We neglected to record the death last year of Professor Leith Adams, the author of a work on tertiary mammals of Malta, and of works of travel, one relating to New Brunswick, where he resided for a period. His chair of Natural History at Queen's College, Cork, has been filled recently by the appointment of M. M. Hartog.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, July 25.—Mr. Meehan stated that a *Broussonettia papyrifera* had recently fruited Though the plant had been introduced a hundred years, only males had hitherto been known, so that a change from male to female had in this instance taken place.

Aug. 8.—The Rev. H. C. McCook described the raids of *Formica sanguinea* upon *F. fusca*—raids in which the black slaves assist their red masters. Reds and blacks shared the labor of raising the young. The nests of *F. fusca*, conspicuous in places

where there were no red ants, were hard to find where the latter were common. An attempt to introduce the red ant into a city yard, failed through the attacks of the common pavement ant, *Tetramorium cæspitum.*

Aug. 15.—Mr. Meehan exhibited some flowers of *Helianthus mollis*, and informed the academy that out of sixty-eight flowers in his garden, all but two faced south-east, although to so face they had to make a circuit.

Aug. 22.—Dr. Leidy stated that a parrot, eighty years of age, required the food to be placed in its mouth, as was the case with pigeons which have been deprived of their brains. That mammals lived longer before man interfered with them, was shown by the wear of the crowns of fossil teeth.

Sept. 5.—A paper entitled "*Conchologia .Hongkongensis*," by S. W. Eastlake, was presented.

Sept. 19.—A paper was presented from Mr. R. E. C. Stearns, upon the verification of the habitat of Conrad's *Mytilus bifurcatus* Mr. Meehan stated his belief that the want of trees upon the prairies was due to nothing but the annual Indian fires; he believed the Indians existed prior to the recession of the lakes of the prairie region; his remarks applied especially to Illinois; Professor Lewis stated that evidences of glacial action abounded in Illinois, while there was no evidence that man was pre-glacial. Dr. Leidy described *Acyclus inquietus*, a rotifer with a finger-like process instead of ciliary disks, and gave particulars of other rotifers without rotary organs.

Sept. 26.—Dr. Leidy presented a paper entitled "Rotifers without rotary organs."

Oct. 3.—Dr. Skinner remarked that the organs of offence of the larva of Papilio, usually believed to be solid, is really hollow, rolled in and out upon itself. Dr. H. Allen spoke upon the asymmetry of the nasal organs, exhibited principally by the septum, which in most human skulls is deflected; a portion of the lining membrane has an erectile character, which is probably protective. Mr. Meehan stated that at Atlantic City he had closely examined some markings on the sand, usually believed to be the tracks of birds, and had found that they were due to the action of water on sand tenanted by colonies of *Hippa talpoides.*

Oct. 10.—Drs. Wood and Formad presented a paper upon the nature of diphtheria, and the Rev. H. C. McCook another upon the snares of orb-weaving spiders. Dr. Wood stated that the cinchonaceous plant "Remigia," the bark of which yields two per cent. of quinine and a peculiar alkaloid known as *cinchonanine*, was probably capable of cultivation in many parts of the Southern States and in California. The Rev. H. C. McCook described four species of Epeira, *E. gemma* from Colorado, *E. conifera*, *E. harrisonæ* from New Hampshire, and *E. bicentennariæ.*

Oct. 17.—Mr. Meehan stated that an isolated Ginko tree, in

Kentucky, had fruited; *Cephalotaxis fortunii* had been proved monœcious, and he believed that all conifers were probably so. Dr. Leidy described *Pyxicola annulata*, an infusorian with a chitinous shell, which it can close with a kind of operculum; it lives upon plumatella. Professor Heilprin spoke upon the fossil shells of the Claibone beds of Texas.

Oct. 31.—The Rev. H. C. McCook drew attention to the use of ants as insecticides by Chinese, and stated his belief that as no American species lived on trees, the probabilities were against their usefulness for a similar purpose.

Nov. 7.—The following papers were presented: "Revision of Swainson's genera of fishes," by Jos. Swain; "Ants as beneficial insecticides," by the Rev. H. C. McCook, the latter of whom advocated the importation of the ant used in China for the protection of orange trees. Professor Koenig spoke of the common occurrence, in West Philadelphia, of enclosures of biotite in muscovite.

Nov. 14.—Mr. Meehan stated that the nest of the wood pewee is not held together by any viscid secretion, but by cobwebs.

Nov. 21.—Mr. Wortman declared that the fossil *Ursus amphidens* described by Dr. Leidy in 1853, was probably identical with the variety of *D. ferox* now living in the same district, viz., the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains; Dr. Leidy endorsed Mr. Wortman's conclusion. Mr. Townsend called attention to the rapidity with which the lost fangs of the rattlesnake were replaced, and mentioned a case in which they had been extracted and re-developed six times.

Nov. 28.—Professor Koenig objected to Reinsch's views of the microscopic structure of coal.

Dec. 5.—Dr. Horn remarked upon the singular distribution of the apterous water-beetle Amphizoa, one species of which inhabits California, a second the district northward of that State as far as Vancouver's island, while a third has been found high up in the mountains of Thibet. Mr. Meehan exhibited a specimen of *Acroclinium rosea*, some of the flowers of which were made double by the development of the chaffy scales of the receptacle. Professor Cope presented a paper upon Uintatherium, Bathmodon and Triïsodon, and gave the substance of it verbally.

Dec. 12.—Papers upon the identification of the species of fishes in Shaw's General Zoölogy, by Jos. Swain, and on the value of the Nearctic as a zoölogical region, by Professor Heilprin, were presented. Dr. Leidy made some remarks upon the fossil Equidæ of North America, and said that it was difficult to tell whether fossilized bones of Equus belonged to the recent species or to the extinct one that so nearly resembled it. Professor Cope believed that the coincident existence of man and of the horse on this continent would yet be demonstrated. The California gold-bearing gravels contain the remains of both. The first travelers who as-

cended the Paraguay twenty years after the discovery of America, reported that they found horses in abundance. He had reason to believe that the foot of *Orohippus* Marsh, did not differ from that of *Hyracotherium*. Specimens collected in the Laramie beds by Mr. Wortman strengthened his belief in their Cretaceous age. A genus of Mammalia had been discovered by Mr. Wortman, which he named *Meniscoëssus*. Its molar teeth resemble that of *Stereognathus* Ow., of the Oolite. Professor Heilprin stated his belief, from a comparison of the Mammalia, that the Nearctic should be considered to form a portion of the Palæarctic, and proposed the name Triarctic to include both. Professor Cope dwelt upon the distinctness of the Nearctic reptiles and fishes from those of the Palæarctic. Dr. Horn said that the coleoptera found north of the St. Lawrence were likely to occur also in the north of Asia, while those found south of that river were more closely allied to those of Mexico. The general character of the Japanese coleoptera was similar to that of the eastern United States. The Rev. H. C. McCook stated that the distribution of ants supported Professor Heilprin's position, but that there was not the same correspondence between the spiders of the two regions. Mr. Tryon declared that the northern part of both continents contained the same genera and even the same species of mollusks, but that farther south the differences increased.

Dec. 19.—Dr. H. Allen spoke of the irregularity of the folds of the hard palate and the assymmetry of the dental arch, and exhibited casts; in the embryo six regular curves range across the palate, but at birth these have become irregular; the speaker gave names to the several rugæ. Professor Cope exhibited remains of *Meniscotherium terrærubræ*, a genus near Hyrax, and belonging to the division Condylarthra; the teeth are tapiroid in character. Dr. Leidy described a new species of extinct peccary *Platygonus vetus*, from Mifflin county, Pa. Miss Lewis gave the result of her studies of the plumage of birds, and showed that varying colors were produced by peculiar arrangements of barbules. Professor Heilprin considered the distribution of the Batrachia and Reptilia, and contended that it supported his view of the sub-regional character of the Nearctic.

Dec. 26.—Professor Lewis presented a paper upon "Enclosures in Muscovite," and Alexis A. Julien another upon the "Genesis of Crystalline Iron Ores."

Jan. 9.—Professor Cope presented a paper upon the distribution of the Batrachia and Reptilia in western North America. Mr. Wortman drew attention to the fact that the museum contained a skull of *Canis lupus*, possessing a third molar in the upper jaw. Dr. Leidy mentioned that he knew of an adult man with only one incisor and two premolars on each side of each jaw. Professor Cope said that he had seen a large dog with four inferior true molars.

Jan. 16.—A paper on *Quercus durandii*, by S. B. Buckley, was read.

Jan. 23.—Dr. Skinner stated that *Argynnis cybele*, instead of carefully depositing the eggs, as is usual with butterflies, dropped them from a distance upon the herbage.

Jan. 30.—Papers were presented on *Urnatella gracilis*, by Dr. Leidy, and on the terrestrial Mollusks of the Society islands, by A. Garrett. Mr. Townsend exhibited a hybrid between the snow-bird and the white-throated sparrow, and stated that the hybrids between North American birds appeared to be rare. Professor Lewis presented a rudely beveled piece of sandstone from the Philadelphia red gravel. It was believed to be artificial. Mr. Potts stated that he had examined the dam and reservoir at Fairmount for sponges, to find whether the decay of these organisms contaminated the water. *Myonia leidyi*, the most abundant, was a close-grained sponge, with but little sarcode; he did not believe decaying sponges caused the pollution of the water.

Feb. 6.—Professor Cope described a new extinct genus and species of Sirenia under the name of *Dioplotherium manigaulti*. Professor Leidy exhibited some Anodontas six inches in length, from a pond in New Jersey, and Professors Lewis and Heilprin identified them with a species found in the pre-glacial clay.

Biological Society of Washington, Feb. 16.—Communications were as follows: Discussion of Dr. Coues' paper on zoölogical nomenclature applied to histology; Mr. Newton P. Scudder on biology and classification; Mr. John A. Ryder on the structures of protoplasm and karyokinesis.

March 2.—Professor Otis T. Mason on the human fauna of the District of Columbia; Dr. Thomas Taylor on section cutting and mounting of hard woods, with illustrations; Dr. M. G. Ellzey on hybrid sterility.

New York Academy of Sciences Feb. 12.—The following papers were read: Minerals from the Weehawken tunnel (with exhibition of specimens), by Mr. B. B. Chamberlin; On the geology and ore-deposits of Northeastern Chihuahua, by Dr. John S. Newberry.

Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, Feb. 14.—Mr. W. H. Pickering read a paper on the winter excursion of the Club, and showed with a lantern some views taken on the trip. A paper by Mr. John Tatlock, Jr., on the principal co-efficients in the barometric formula of Laplace as applied to the White Mountain region was read.

American Geographical Society, Feb. 15. — Commandant Alfred Aylward delivered a lecture entitled, "Dutch South Africa."